

BY-LAWS

OF

LE-HI-HO

THE

LEHIGH VALLEY

HOMOPHILE

ORGANIZATION

ADOPTED

By a Referendum Vote  
of

the General Membership  
on

December 7, 1975

ARTICLE 1. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "LE-HI-HO" signifying Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization.

ARTICLE 2. Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization is to promote equal rights for homosexuals.

Section 2. The general activities of this organization shall be directed toward, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Education, (2) Library and Research, (3) Counselling,
- (4) Legal Aid, (5) Publications, (6) Fund Raising,
- (7) Recreational and Social Activities.

ARTICLE 3. Membership

Section 1. Membership is available to anyone of legal age (at least eighteen) who is in sympathy with the purpose of the organization.

Section 2. Membership shall consist of voting members and non-voting members.

Section 3. Any person may become a voting member by attending two (2) consecutive meetings and submitting his/her name for membership.

Section 4. Non-voting members may participate in the activities of the organization except that they shall neither vote nor hold office.

Section 5. Any voting member who wishes to resign may do so in writing to the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Voting membership in this organization shall be deemed a privilege and it shall be necessary for each voting member who has not attended during the year to affirm annually in writing his/her wish to continue membership. A discontinued voting member may be reinstated as defined in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 7. A petition for removal of a member from the organization may be initiated by an absolute majority vote of the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members.



Section 8. A member must be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the vote to remove him/her from the organization.

Section 9. A two-thirds simple majority vote of the voting members shall be necessary to remove a member from the organization.

Section 10. Membership dues may be levied as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 11. The mailing list of the organization shall be used for no other purpose than direct mailing by the Board of Directors to the membership, i.e., it shall not be sold, loaned, nor published.

ARTICLE 4. Affiliation

Section 1. This organization may become affiliated with other organizations by an absolute majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5. Meetings

Section 1. Regular monthly membership meetings shall be held.

Section 2. Special membership meetings may be called by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly.

Section 4. Voting members shall have the privilege of attending, but not participating in, the meetings of the Board of Directors. Any voting member desiring to attend must notify the Board of Directors of his/her intention and shall subsequently be invited to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for managing the business and affairs of the organization.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) elected voting members.

Section 3. The term of office for members of the Board of Directors shall be two (2) years except that initially three (3) members shall be elected for one (1) year terms and four (4) members shall be elected for two (2) year terms.

Section 4. The size of the Board of Directors may be changed to another odd number by an absolute majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(a) If the size is reduced, current members shall complete their unexpired terms.

(b) If the size is increased, new positions shall be filled by a special election of the voting membership.

Section 5. ~~A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurring before the expiration of the term of office shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of a voting member by the Chairperson with approval of the Board of Directors.\*~~

Section 6. An absolute majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum which shall be necessary to conduct business at meetings of the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE 7. Officers

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall consist of a Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first Board of Directors meeting of the new fiscal year.

Section 3. The term of office for each of the officers shall be one year.

Section 4. A vacancy in the office of Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by appointment by the Chairperson with approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. A vacancy in the office of Chairperson shall be filled by special election of the Board of Directors at the first Board of Directors meeting following such vacancy.

Section 6. A petition for removal of an officer from his/her office may be initiated by an absolute majority vote of the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members.

Section 7. An officer must be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the vote to remove him/her from office.

\*see Amendment 1.



Section 8. A two-thirds simple majority vote of the voting members shall be necessary to remove an officer from his/her office.

ARTICLE 8. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Chairperson

(a) The Chairperson shall call and preside over all meetings of the membership and meetings of the Board of Directors.

(b) The Chairperson shall appoint committees and committee chairpersons as may be required, e.g. Social Activities, subject to review and approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Secretary

(a) The Secretary shall call and preside over meetings of the membership and meetings of the Board of Directors in the absence of the Chairperson.

(b) The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of all meetings of the Board of Directors and reporting on their content at the general meetings.

Section 3. Treasurer

(a) The Treasurer shall call and preside over meetings of the membership and meetings of the Board of Directors in the absence of the Chairperson and the Secretary.

(b) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all finances, retain the records of the finances, and present a report at each Board of Directors meeting and at membership meetings at least bi-annually.

(c) The Treasurer shall pay all bills of the organization in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Directors and when proper invoices or expenditure receipts have been presented.

(d) The Treasurer's records shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year by at least two (2) voting members appointed by the Chairperson.

(e) In the case that the Treasurer leave office prior to the end of the fiscal year an audit shall be made prior to a replacement taking office.

## ARTICLE 9. Elections

Section 1. The fiscal year of the organization shall be from January 1 to December 31.

### Section 2. Nominating Committee

(a) At least ninety (90) days prior to the end of the fiscal year the Chairperson shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) voting members, none of whom is currently on the Board of Directors.

(b) At the November membership meeting the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one (1) candidate for each expiring term of office on the Board of Directors.

(c) At the November membership meeting candidates for the Board of Directors may be nominated from the floor.

### Section 3. Election Committee

(a) At the November membership meeting the Chairperson shall appoint an Election Committee of three (3) voting members whose duties shall be:

- (1) to prepare and distribute ballots
- (2) to receive and count ballots
- (3) to announce election results.

(b) The Election Committee members shall not be members of the Board of Directors and shall not be candidates for the Board of Directors.

### Section 4. Election Meeting

(a) Elections shall be held at the December membership meeting

(b) Notification of the date and time and place of the December membership meeting shall be given in writing to the voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

(c) Prior to the balloting each candidate for election to the Board of Directors shall be allowed a brief statement.

(d) At least ten percent (10%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum which shall be necessary to conduct the election.

Section 5. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors shall take office on the first day of the new fiscal year.



ARTICLE 10. Amendments

Section 1. Motions to amend the By-Laws may originate from any two members of the Board of Directors or from a petition of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members.

Section 2. Amendments to the By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the membership by a two-thirds simple majority vote, provided that notice stating the proposed amendment(s) has been given in writing to the voting members at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. At least ten percent (10%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum which shall be necessary to amend the By-Laws.

NOTE: These By-Laws shall go into effect on January 1, 1976.

Amendment 1.

REVISE

Article 6., Section 5. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurring before the expiration of the term of office shall be filled by the appointment of a voting member who shall serve only until the next regularly scheduled election. The Chairperson shall make such appointment, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

APPROVED

By a Referendum Vote of the General Membership on December 19, 1976.